IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl.No.: 10/748,985 Confirmation No.: 8246

Applicant: Takeuchi Filed: 12/30/2003

TC/AU: 2627 Examiner: Kapadia

Docket: TI-36203 Cust.No.: 23494

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O.Box 1450 Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This preliminary amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.